



Congressman Dave Reichert
Washington's 8th Congressional District

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REICHERT HAILS HOMELAND REAUTHORIZATION PASSAGE

First ever authorization for Department of Homeland Security

WASHINGTON, DC— U.S. Rep. Dave Reichert today issued the following statement on House passage of the *Homeland Security Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006*. The bill is the nation's first ever homeland security reauthorization plan.

“For the first time, the Department of Homeland Security has an authorization for its programs and policies. We know what we are laying out and we are looking forward to the agenda of the upcoming year. In following the same procedures as other arms of homeland security, such as Department of Defense and the Intelligence community, we instill an important working relationship between the Administration and Congress to pursue the critical task of our nation's security.”

The Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act, H.R. 1817, authorizes \$34.2 billion for all aspects of operation of DHS in 2006. Key provisions of the bill include:

- Full funding for the recruitment and training of 2,000 new border agents
- Assistant Secretary for Cybersecurity created to lead new National Cybersecurity Division and National Communications System
- Risk assessments at all foreign ports to determine the best locations to screen cargo bound for the United States
- Standards applied to all overseas shipments before they enter the United States
- Streamlined operations to coordinate the missions of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- Single application program for background checks on individuals participating in multiple programs within DHS used to expedite travel and to provide background checks and security screenings for workers
- Funding for state and local enforcement of immigration laws
- Threat Advisory System reforms to communicate as much specific threat information as possible directly to regions, states, localities, industries, and all Americans
- Secretary designated as official spokesperson for all threat information
- Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) authorized as a national, real time communication system for DHS and thousands of local agencies

- DHS Technology Clearinghouse to research and implement anti-terror technology
- Counterterrorism technology incentives through protection against frivolous litigation
- National Terrorism Exercise Program to coordinate and establish standards for all federal, state, and local terrorism drills
- New DHS intelligence focus on nuclear and biological terrorism
- DHS authority to recruit highly sought after intelligence analysts
- Red teams to invigorate intelligence analysis and strengthen DHS counterterrorism measures

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